Deaths during abortion and sterilisation operations

752. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths of over 5,000 women across the country due to septic abortions and ill-performed sterilization operations amounts to flagrant violation of human rights in reproductive health;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the Journal of Obstetrics and Gyanecology of India has reported as many as 16 deaths during sterilization operations between 1979 and 1999; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the abortions and sterilization deaths being reported in the media;

(c) The Government of India is taking the following steps to ensure safe abortion and sterilization services;

The MTP Act 1971 has been amended in 2003 and notified and it is being implemented.

Emergency Contraception has been introduced in the Family Welfare Programme to prevent the need for abortions.

Laparoscopes (equipment required for female sterilization) are supplied to Government hospitals all over the country through the respective State Governments.

Training Facilities for female/male sterilization and safe abortion are provided for medical officers at 165 training institutes in the country.

Standards for male and female sterilization have been published by the Government of India and circulated to hospitals in the country.

Instructions have been issued to all State Governments to ensure that the doctors who perform sterilization are adequately trained and proper procedures followed.

Quarterly reports of failure of sterilization cases are collected by the Government of India from the respective States.